

Atty. Dkt. No. 016906-0264

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A heating and air-conditioning system for a motor vehicle having front and rear internal vehicle compartments, comprising:

- (a) a conditioning housing;
- (b) a first heat exchanger and a second heat exchanger operably integrated within said conditioning housing;
- (c) a plurality of air outlet openings in said conditioning housing for guiding air to front interior zones in the front internal vehicle compartment;
- (d) a connecting section on the outside of said conditioning housing;
- (e) an air outlet opening through said connecting section, said air outlet opening being in parallel air flow relationship with air flow through said first heat exchanger;
- (f) an additional member selectively mounted over said air outlet opening through said connecting section, said additional member being selected from the group consisting of
 - (i) a releasable cover for covering, in a tight, leak-proof manner, said air outlet opening through said connecting section; and
 - (ii) a rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit attached in a tight, leak-proof manner to said connecting section and in fluid communication with said conditioning housing via said air outlet opening through said connecting section, said rear temperature control unit comprising an additional housing and a third heat exchanger operably integrated in the additional housing; and
- (g) connecting means structure, associated with at least said connecting section portion of said conditioning housing, for selectively and alternately attaching each of said releasable cover and said rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit said additional members (i) and (ii) to said connecting section.

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22. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the motor vehicle further comprises rear interior zones in the rear internal vehicle compartment.

23. (Withdrawn) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said rear temperature control unit comprises an air guiding arrangement leading from said conditioning housing to said rear interior zones.

24. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said additional housing comprises at least one air control element.

25. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a partition separating said first heat exchanger into a left portion and a right portion.

26. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a partition separating at least one of said first and third heat exchangers into respective left and right portions.

27. (Currently Amended) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said connecting means structure associated with said connecting section for attaching said rear temperature control unit defines an area on said connecting section that is substantially larger than said air outlet opening.

28. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said additional housing comprises an open housing section capable of tight, leak-proof attachment to said connecting section of said conditioning housing.

29. (Currently Amended) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said connecting means structure comprises flange members that are associated both with said connection section and with said rear temperature control unit and that correspond to each other and are capable of fitting together to connect said connecting section and said rear temperature control unit.

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30. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a plurality of electrically activated positive temperature coefficient elements integrated in said first heat exchanger for water side temperature regulation.

31. (Previously Presented) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, further comprising air flaps for regulating the flow of air through said first heat exchanger.

32. (Currently Amended) A heating and air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said removable cover and said rear temperature control unit include second connecting means structural arrangements, and said connecting means structure comprises profiled flange arrangements on said connecting section for selectively and alternately cooperating in a mating manner with said second connecting means structural arrangements on said removable cover and on said rear temperature control unit.

33. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle comprising a heating and air-conditioning system which comprises:

- (a) a conditioning housing;
- (b) a first heat exchanger and a second heat exchanger operably integrated within said conditioning housing;
- (c) a plurality of air outlet openings in said conditioning housing for guiding air to front interior zones of a motor vehicle;
- (d) a connecting section on the outside of said conditioning housing;
- (e) an air outlet opening through said connecting section, said air outlet opening being in parallel air flow relationship with air flow through said first heat exchanger;
- (f) an additional member selectively mounted over said air outlet opening through said connecting section, said additional member being selected from the group consisting of
 - (i) a releasable cover for covering, in a tight, leak-proof manner, said air outlet opening through said connecting section; and

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(ii) a rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit attached in a tight, leak-proof manner to said connecting section and in fluid communication with said conditioning housing via said air outlet opening through said connecting section, said rear temperature control unit comprising an additional housing and a third heat exchanger operably integrated in the additional housing; and

(g) connecting means structure, associated with at least said connecting section portion of said conditioning housing, for selectively and alternately attaching each of said releasable cover and said rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit ~~said additional members (i) and (ii)~~ to said connecting section.

34. (Currently Amended) A conditioning housing assembly for a heating and air-conditioning system that can be adapted to produce either a two-zone, a three-zone or a four-zone system, comprising:

- (a) a first heat exchanger and a second heat exchanger operably integrated within said conditioning housing;
- (b) a connecting section on the outside of said conditioning housing;
- (c) an air outlet opening through said connecting section, said air outlet opening being in parallel air flow relationship with said first heat exchanger; and
- (d) connecting means structure, associated with at least said connecting section portion of said conditioning housing, for selectively and alternately attaching to said connecting section an additional member to be selectively mounted over said air outlet opening through said connecting section, said additional member being selected from the group consisting of
 - (i) a releasable cover for covering, in a tight, leak-proof manner, said air outlet opening through said connecting section; and
 - (ii) a rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit attached in a tight, leak-proof manner to said connecting section and in fluid communication with said conditioning housing via said air outlet opening through said connecting section, said rear temperature control unit comprising an additional housing and a third heat exchanger operably integrated in the additional housing.

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35. (Currently Amended) A conditioning housing according to claim 21, wherein said connecting means structure includes an arrangement selected from the group consisting of at least one of a bonding arrangement, a frictional arrangement and an interlocking arrangement.

36. (Currently Amended) A conditioning housing according to claim 34, wherein said connecting means structure includes an arrangement selected from the group consisting of at least one of a bonding arrangement, a frictional arrangement and an interlocking arrangement.

37. (Currently Amended) A conditioning housing according to claim 34, wherein the air outlet opening has a periphery and wherein at least a portion of the connecting means structure for attaching the additional member is located at the periphery of the air outlet opening.

38. (Currently Amended) A conditioning housing according to claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the connecting means structure for attaching the additional member is located at a position spaced apart from the periphery of the air outlet opening.

39. (Currently Amended) A conditioning housing according to claim 34, wherein the connecting means structure for selectively and alternately attaching the additional member comprises a first connecting means structure section for attaching said releasable cover (i) and a second connecting means structure section for attaching said rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit (ii), and wherein said second connecting means structure section comprises a connecting means structure portion that is not common to said first connecting means structure section.

40. (Previously Presented) A conditioning housing according to claim 34, wherein the first heat exchanger is positioned downstream of the second heat exchanger in an air flow direction.